

Dear Friend:

Late last week we discovered the startling fact that President Bush had authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to spy on Americans, and to do so without search warrants. According to a Friday, December 16, 2005 article in the *New York Times*, the President directed the NSA, in 2002, to monitor communications of American citizens. The President has since admitted doing so. Since this program started, hundreds and possibly thousands have had their telephone calls and emails monitored.

I should be surprised by this new information, yet I am not. This Administration has long worked to gain more power and authority, and this is clearly no exception. While I believe that the President must have the best intelligence to protect our nation and that he must be able to conduct programs that are hidden from the public eye, I also believe that this intelligence gathering can be done without eroding our liberty.

The existence of this program is highly concerning and I believe it needs to be thoroughly investigated. Therefore, I have written a letter to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence urging it to conduct an oversight investigation into the actions of the President. I hope that my letter will not be ignored. To learn more about this issue, please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=5800&type=Issues>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you have found the information useful. Please watch your inbox for future updates.